

'MRS. HALL PREDICTED HER HUSBAND AND SINGER MET SAME FATE,'—MILLS

Defense Is Dealt Hard Blow

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SOMERVILLE, N. J., Nov. 5.—The drama in which he had moved as an inconspicuous figure for four years found James Mills cast in an important role this afternoon.

Bewildered at suddenly becoming the object of so much attention, Mills fidgeted and stuttered on the witness stand here, but he succeeded in getting into the record a conversation he held with Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall which the prosecution considers of the utmost importance.

The day's most sensational witness in the trial of Mrs. Hall and her brothers, Willie and Henry Stevens, the sexton of the Church of St. John the Evangelist, created a sensation when he told of the meeting with Mrs. Hall the day before the bodies of her husband and his wife were found.

Said They Met the Same Fate
Mrs. Hall had told him her husband had not been home all night. Mills said the same of his wife, and asked if it was possible they had eloped.

"No," was the emphatic reply of Mrs. Hall, according to the witness, who went on to quote her as saying:—

"They have been together and each has met the same fate. They are both dead, or else they would have come home."

The testimony of Mills furnished the high lights of the day's proceedings, although it is expected that Henry L. Dickman, the former state trooper who claims he was bribed to drop the investigation four years ago and get out of

Tells His Story



JAMES MILLS

Key to Hall Mystery



CONDITION of Mrs. Jane Gibson, "pig woman" (above), the prosecution's star witness in the Hall-Mills case, ill in a hospital, was better today, but she may not be able to testify at the trial for a few days. Her story is eagerly awaited. (Photo Graphic.)

the state, may prove a big factor in the prosecution. He is to follow on the witness stand immediately after cross examination of Mills has been concluded.

As witness after witness was called, it became more evident that no attempt will be made to move Mrs. Jane Gibson to the court house for at least several days.

This belief was strengthened shortly after noon when Dr. A. Anderson Lawton, attending the "pig woman" at Somerset County Hospital, declared he will not consent to her leaving that institution.

"Mrs. Gibson is critically ill with pneumonia, a kidney disease," he said. "To remove her now would doubtless be fatal."

Interest Centers in Mills

With the woman definitely eliminated from the court house scene, at least for the present, the spectators and the lawyers centered their interest on Mills and speculated as to what will happen later when the defense lawyers take him in hand.

It has been consistently rumored that counsel for the three defendants may attempt to fix the crime on him, and these reports were augmented by the pointed questions asked Charlotte Mills concerning the relations of her father and Mrs. Gibson, and of her parent and Ellis Parker, a Mount Holly detective.

But the stoical Mills, under di-

rect cross-examination at the hands of Special Prosecutor Alexander Simpson, gave no indication that he fears the outcome of the ordeal to follow. He was dazed by some of the queries which the prosecutor thundered at him, but he answered them, even though haltingly.

Mrs. Hall Hangs Head

During most of the time he was on the stand Mrs. Hall hung her head. It was the first day since the trial started that she seemed to be taking the proceedings seriously.

The widow of the slain minister appeared particularly downcast when Mills related that Mrs. Minna Clark, under arrest as an accessory, had a key to the church which would admit her to the study. It is reported that Mrs. Clark took from there certain love notes which Mrs. Mills had left for Dr. Hall.

Willie Walks Out of Room

Preceding Mills on the witness stand was Capt. John J. Lamb of the state police. During his testimony Willie Stevens shifted in his seat and his eyes sought the door. Then, leisurely almost, he stood up and walked out of the room.

Not a word of warning had come from any one. The court attaches for a time were dumfounded. Then two, recovering more quickly than the rest, darted

Testimony of His Talk With Widow Sensational

after the strange acting defendant. All three returned in a few minutes.

Lamb denied he had been a frequent visitor to the Hall home, but admitted having conferred with Philip Payne, managing editor of the New York Mirror.

Wrangle Over Photos

Counsel for both sides locked official horns over the first witness of the day. He is Isaac N. Vanderveer, New Brunswick photographer, who identified pictures he had taken on the Phillips farm soon after the minister and Mrs. Mills were found murdered.

The attorneys wrangled frequently as to who caused the photographs to be taken, their purpose and whether certain things shown in the prints are still in existence.

Souvenir hunters have destroyed the crabapple tree under which Dr. Hall and the woman were discovered, and the appearance of the entire scene has undergone a vast change in the four years since the crime.

During the cross-examination of the witness by Senator Case it was plainly indicated that the defense is proceeding to lay plans to shatter the story of Mrs. Gibson. It is believed that the lawyers for Mrs. Hall and her brothers will contend the "pig woman" has given five or six different versions of her movements on the night of September 14, 1922, when she claims to have seen the three defendants on the Phillips farm.

To Attack "Pig Woman's" Story

It is further rumored that the defense intends to attack her credibility on various points and proposes to submit a brief history of her life in an endeavor to impress the jury.

Warden James J. Major of the Somerset county jail testified he turned over to Capt. Lamb on July 19, 1926, a bundle containing fifteen exhibits in the case, including a large white linen handkerchief bearing the initial "H," three bullets and three shells, a pair of eyeglasses and 61 cents in coin.

Arthur S. Vanderveer, photographer, who made the official pictures of the murder probe four years ago, was recalled by Simpson when court opened.

Vanderveer identified pictures of De Russey's Lane, the Phillips farm and the crabapple tree.

Senator Case questioned Vanderveer closely, objecting to the introduction of his photographs in evidence. He was overruled.

A photograph of Dr. Hall wearing his vestments and standing on the steps of his church was put in evidence.

Senator Case was determined to learn from the photographer every detail regarding the location of the murder scene.

Standing before the jury with an enlarged photograph he pointed to every spot on the picture, asking for precise information. Senator Simpson paid little attention to the cross-examination.

Case drew from Vanderveer the admission that the roadways bounding the Phillips farm are for the most part lined by heavy foliage. Defense counsel appeared to be preparing the way for a theory that under ordinary circumstances the murder would not have been visible from any highway.

Senator Case then brought out that in another picture the Phillips home was completely obscured by foliage. A man, whom Vanderveer identified as Detective David, of Middlesex county, was in the picture.

"What was he doing there?" asked Case.

Simpson objected, but Case re-

phrased his question and the witness said that David was there to point out the location of the crabapple tree under which the bodies were found.

"Where is the tree?" asked Case. "It's obscured by shrubbery," said the witness.

Senator Case nodded with satisfaction.

Senator Case then placed the witness at the spot where Mrs. Gibson said she stood the night of the murders.

"Could you see the crabapple tree?" Case asked.

"No," replied the witness.

Warden James Major, of the Somerset county jail, followed Vanderveer on the stand.

Mrs. Hall's Handkerchief

Major read the receipt for a list of exhibits stored in the jail safe shortly after the murder.

Included in the list was a handkerchief, said to have been taken from the pocket of Mrs. Hall.

Capt. John J. Lamb of the state police identified a handkerchief with an "H" monogrammed in its corner.

After Lamb had identified them Simpson placed in evidence the pair of eyeglasses worn by Dr. Hall, three cartridge shells and a bullet.

Case tried to make Lamb tell why he had left the New York state police before he came to Jersey.

Lamb Dodges Question

While Lamb dodged the question Simpson objected to the court. To the trooper's relief Simpson was sustained.

Lamb testified that Philip Payne, editor of a newspaper active in the Hall-Mills prosecution, was lurking

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How Willie's Prints Are Classified



FINGERPRINTS play a prominent part in the Hall-Mills trial. Former Deputy Police Commissioner Joseph Faurot, fingerprint expert, said there are four types of fingerprints, as shown above. The arch type, which Willie Stevens is said to have, is the rarest, being limited to about 5 per cent. of the population. The percentage of loop types is 60 and whorl had composite 35 per cent. Willie and Faurot are shown.